



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL  
GRADUATION/DROPOUT PREVENTION TASKFORCE**

**May 21, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Executive Tower**

**1700 W. Washington**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Phoenix, AZ 85007**

**Meeting Notes**

**Members Present:** Cathleen Barton, Patti Beltram, Dan Brown, Mark Dobbins, Marv Lamer, Sam Leyvas, Diane McCarthy, Beth Broome attending for Co-chair Darcy Renfro, Dr. Amy Schlessman (telephonic), Tom Tyree (telephonic), Carolyn Warner, Chair Merl Waschler, Vince Yanez,

**Members Not Present:** Rusty Bowers, Pearl Esau, Maria Harper-Marinick, Amanda McAdams, Dr. Kent Scribner, and Dr. Jim Zaharis

**Staff Present:** Rebecca Gau, and Kerry McConnell

**Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions**

Merl Waschler called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. provided welcoming remarks and introduced the purpose of this meeting, which was to discuss one of the taskforce's recommendations in-depth.

Diane McCarthy moved for the approval of the March 19, 2013 Task force meeting minutes as presented. Patti Beltram seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion: Support Early Warning System**

Mr. Waschler introduced Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation (GOEI). Ms. Gau reviewed the fourth whitepaper regarding an Early Warning Data System to identify at-risk students. Ms. Gau advised that there were not many changes from the original whitepaper, so felt it necessary to review some of the points of the paper. Cathleen Barton asked if there has been a study on districts that provide competency based grading versus general grading and how that impacts students. Michelle Gayles with Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW) advised that she has not seen such research as it relates to an early warning systems. Ms. Gayles did mention that in work VSUW has been doing with districts, grading has become a big conversation. Tom Tyree advised that he has been part of some discussions on the issue of the four hour block that ELL students have to attend. Mr. Tyree advised that this four hour block, which is taken away from regular high school classes, can add to the hardship of these ELL students in being able to get the proper credits to graduate. Mr. Tyree asked if there should be some greater conversations around this particular issue. Ms. Gau advised that she can include

that point in the next revision. Diane McCarthy spoke to the Peoria Unified School Districts' ability to do career exploration in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. McCarthy asked if any research has been shown that the opportunity for students to look at careers in middle school year might impact kids staying in school. Ms. Gayles advised that she could not point to particular research but knows a lot of conversations of earlier career exploration having an impact are gaining more traction. Ms. Gau also advised that this will be discussed in the next whitepaper. Ms Gau then reviewed possible available actions.

#### **Presentation: Career Pathways**

Mr. Waschler introduced Mark Dobbins with the Arizona Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Dobbins reviewed his presentation discussing graduation gates from a business perspective. Mr. Dobbins stressed the importance of successful high school graduation on the overall health of the business community. Mr. Dobbins then gave the Task Force information on the work that the Arizona Manufacturing Partnership is currently doing in the state.

#### **Discussion: Align CTE & Career Pathway Systems**

Ms. Gau reviewed the fifth white paper covering the alignment of CTE and the career pathway system. Task Force members discussed possible edits to the white paper. After discussion Chair Waschler advised that this is such a broad discussion he would be able to delve deeper into the matter at the next meeting once edits had been made to the original white paper.

#### **Council Comments**

#### **Call to the Public**

There were no requests from the public to address the Task Force.

#### **Adjourn**

With no further business before the Taskforce, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.